

Test Menu

| TOPIC | DESCRIPTION |
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| Test Name | HIV-1 RNA |
| Other Name (s) | HIV-1 NAT or HIV-1 RNA QuantDX |
| Analyte(s) | HIV-1 |
| Test Code | 0560 (viral load – quantitative) Plasma only 0530 (diagnostic – qualitative) Plasma or Serum |
| Lab location | Jacksonville and Miami locations |
| Department | Retrovirology (HIV) |
| Prior Authorization | none |
| Required Forms | none |
| Specimen Sources | Plasma sample. |
| Supplemental Information- Special Specimen Preparation | Centrifuge PPT within 8 hours of collection and freeze until shipment. |
| Minimum Volume | At least 2.5 ml plasma |
| Storage/Transport Conditions | Centrifuge PPT within 8 hours of collection and freeze until shipment. Send plasma(s) on approximately 2 - 3 kg of dry ice, however if dry ice is not available, specimens may be sent on 3 - 4 foam refrigerant packs in a Styrofoam cooler. Please label cooler on the outside with "VLoad". Do not allow specimens to thaw before shipping. Shipment must be sent priority overnight. |
| Collection Media | Plasma sample collected via PPT (pearl top) preferred |
| Specimen Labeling | Specimen must be labeled with at least two unique patient identifiers (first and last name, unique ID# or DOB) and the date of collection . Electronic lab order preferred, HMS, etc. Information on the specimen must match the requisition. |
| Packaging and Shipping Instructions and Handling | Send plasma overnight on dry ice at $\leq -20^{\circ}\text{C}$, however if dry ice is not available, specimens may be sent on 3 - 4 foam refrigerant packs in a Styrofoam cooler $2-8^{\circ}\text{C}$. Please label cooler on the outside with "VLoad". Do not allow specimens to thaw before shipping. Shipment must be sent priority overnight . |
| Test Methodology | Transcription Mediated Amplification (TMA) |
| Turnaround Time | 1 - 3 days |
| Result Indicator | Laboratory interpretations: RNA Detected, or RNA Not Detected (serum or plasma), RNA copies/ml blood (plasma only) or Invalid |
| Unsatisfactory Specimen | 1) Quantity not sufficient (QNS) 2) No ID on specimen 3) Information on specimen does not match requisition/test order 4) Grossly hemolyzed 5) Leaked in transit 6) Laboratory Accident 7) No specimen received 8) Incorrect collection device used |
| Interferences and Limitations | Hemolysis |
| Additional Information & Notes | See quick reference guide |
| Reference Range | HIV-1 RNA Not Detected |
| Reference Lab | none |
| Reflex testing | none |

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, M.D., Ph.D.
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Quick Reference Guide To HIV-1 RNA Viral Load Testing

The Department of Health, Bureau of Public Health Laboratories offers HIV-1 RNA viral load testing using the Hologic Aptima HIV-1 RNA Quant Dx assay. Below is a guide for this service.

- No preliminary restrictions such as fasting are required for a satisfactory plasma specimen.
- Collect 5mL of blood in a sterile Plasma Preparation Tube (PPT), “pearl top”, BD reference #362788. The assay requires a minimum of 2.5 ml plasma. **Do not refrigerate whole blood.** Alternatively, one may collect 7mL of blood in EDTA (K3, 0.15% soln.), “purple top”.
- Specimen must be labeled with **at least two unique patient identifiers** (first and last name, unique ID# or DOB) and the **date of collection**. Electronic lab order preferred, HMS, etc. **Information on the specimen must match the requisition.**
- Centrifuge (10-15 minutes at 1000 x g) the PPT or purple top **within 8 hours of collection**. PPT is now ready to freeze until shipment is prepared (decanting plasma is not required). Purple tops will require decanting of plasma from cells, into a **sterile screw-top plastic tube**.
- Immediately place PPT or plasma in -20°C freezer. Send plasma(s) on approx. 2-3 kg dry ice (if available), do not allow dry ice to contact specimens. However, if dry ice is not available, specimens may be sent on 3-4 frozen refrigerant packs in a Styrofoam cooler. Please label the cooler on the outside with **“Viral Load or VLoad”**. Do not allow specimens to thaw before shipping. PPT and plasma specimens are acceptable upon receipt at laboratory if frozen or maintained at 2-8°C for <6 days.
- Follow appropriate packaging and transporting guidelines. Send these specimens as “UN 3373 Biological Substance Category B”. Do not transport dry ice in an airtight container.
- Ship plasma(s) priority overnight to the public health laboratory **Monday thru Friday only**. If the work week includes a holiday, please call the laboratory for collection and shipping instructions.
- HIV-1 viral load test services may be electronically ordered through HMS, order #0560

Should you need additional information or clarification please contact Ms. Imelda Ignacio-Hernando at (904) 791-1531, or Mr. Berry Bennett at (904) 791-1527.

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